Criteria for recognition of freedom fighters

1238. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the criteria adopted for recognition of freedom fighters by Union Home Ministry;

(b) the details of the criteria adopted for recognition in various States, State-wise;

(c) whether State Government of UP recognize a person as freedom fighter when he/she had spent 3 months in jail during freedom struggle while the Union Home Ministry has set the criterion of at least 6 months;

(d) whether freedom fighters who had been imprisoned for less than 6 months are not given any benefits of Central schemes; and

(e) if answer to both parts is yes, the reasons for such discrimination who sacrificed their life for Independence of the Nation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) The eligibility criteria under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme *inter-alia* includes imprisonment/underground suffering of at least six months (three months in case of women and SC/ST freedom fighters), internment in homes/externment from districts for at least six months, confiscation of properties, permanent incapacitation or loss of job, which a claimant should have undergone in connection with the national freedom struggle.

(b) The eligibility criteria adopted by different States for grant of freedom fighters pension under the States/UT schemes, varies from State to State. This information is not centrally maintained.

(c) As per Rule 2 of the Uttar Pradesh Freedom Fighters & their Families Pension Rules, 1975, any person who on account his participation in the national freedom struggle, had undergone jail suffering of two months' or was interned in house or was under trial prisoner in jail for three months; or who was awarded punishment of ten strokes of canning or who was declared absconder or was injured due to firing or who attained martyrdom, will be treated as freedom fighter. It is further provided that other persons, who were interned or undertrial prisoner for shorter periods at different times, will also be treated as freedom fighter provided that the total period of internment or under-trial prisoners is three months or more.

(d) The eligibility condition for Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme has been relaxed in case of certain Movements depending upon the special circumstances obtaining in such Movements.

(e) The Central scheme and the various State schemes have different eligibility criteria, evidentiary requirements and terms and conditions. The State schemes are formulated by the respective State Governments and the eligibility criteria varies from State to State.